

September 23, 2010

#09-213(WPCB) (CAFO Rulemaking)
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Office of Legal Counsel
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
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DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF LAND QUALITY

To the Officers and agents of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM):

After personally witnessing an entire summer of unregulated dumping of liquid and solid waste from a nearby CAFO, and the environmental impact from this practice, we feel it is of the utmost importance that controls and regulations are in place to make all CAFO operations accountable for both their operation procedures and waste disposal practices. Regulation should not be limited by the supposed size of the facility.

Examples are now numerous of CAFO operators contributing to Indiana waterway pollution and abuse of natural resources. The apparent apathy of state regulating committees and offices shows neglect of their most basic obligation to protect the citizens of Indiana and the environment. We cannot put profits over citizens' concerns and rights.

The state should be making every necessary effort to regulate waste discharge in all situations in order to address community health concerns. Further regulation is imperative to compel CAFO operators to pre-treat waste or establish on-site waste treatment facilities to create and maintain more hygienic practices. It is painfully obvious self-regulation is not effective in deterring abusive activities by some of these operators. Even worse, while Indiana has not effectively controlled the dispersal of waste generated within the state, Indiana plans to allow wastes that disrupted the Ohio ecosystem and water quality to be dumped on Indiana sites, further contaminating our resources.

Please do not weaken environmental regulations to benefit a few producers financially. The larger issue is the protection of Hoosiers from unhealthy practices and preventing violation of natural resources.

Sincerely,

Timothy & Nikka Ogborne
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